CLAIMS

We claim:

    1.   A computer implemented system for providing access to a drawing comprising:

5   a drawing file;

an information extraction server component configured to provide information relating to the drawing file from a group of information comprising file size, date, and author;

a search server component configured to provide a query engine that allows

10   complex property and tag-based queries of the drawing file; and

a conversion server component configured to transform the drawing file from one drawing file format to another drawing file format without accessing the application that created the drawing file.

15   2.   The system of claim 1 further comprising an active server page (ASP) that interacts with one or more of the server components to obtain requested information in a graphical user interface on a web browser.

    3.   The system of claim 1 wherein the conversion component is cached.

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    4.   The system of claim 1 wherein the search server component utilizes an index server that interacts with one or more drawing filters to filter and retrieve

information.

5.   The system of claim 1 wherein the drawing file is stored in DWG file
format.

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6.   A method for providing access to a drawing comprising:

obtain information relating to a drawing file from a group of information
comprising file size, date, and author;

providing a query engine that allows complex property and tag-based queries of

10   the drawing file; and

transforming the drawing file from one drawing file format to another drawing
file format without accessing the application that created the drawing file.

7.   The method of claim 6 further comprising obtaining requested

15   information in a graphical user interface on a web browser using an active server page
(ASP).

8.   The method of claim 6 further comprising caching the conversion
component.

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9.   The method of claim 6 further comprising filtering and retrieving
information utilizing an index server that interacts with one or more drawing filters.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein the drawing file is stored in DWG file format.

5　　11. An article of manufacture embodying logic for performing a method for accessing a drawing over a network, the method comprising:

obtaining information relating to a drawing file from a group of information comprising file size, date, and author;

providing a query engine that allows complex property and tag-based queries of

10　the drawing file; and

transforming the drawing file from one drawing file format to another drawing file format without accessing the application that created the drawing file.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the method further

15　comprises obtaining requested information in a graphical user interface on a web browser using an active server page (ASP).

13. The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the method further comprises caching the conversion component.

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14. The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the method further comprises filtering and retrieving information utilizing an index server that interacts

with one or more drawing filters.

15.   The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein the drawing file is stored

in DWG file format.

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